comes that ? says he, that takes upon him not to conceive: the answer is as ready as a borrower's cap[5]; *I am the king's poor cousin, sir.*

P. HEN. Nay, they will be kin to us, or they will fetch it from Japhet. But the letter:—

POINS. Sir John Falstaff, knight, to the son of the king, nearest his father., Harry Prince of Wales, greet big.—Why, this is a certificate.

P. HEN.[6] Peace!

Poms. I will imitate the honourable Roman in brevity[7]:—he sure means brevity in breath: short-winded.—I commend me to thee. I commend thee. and I leave thce. Be not too familiar with Poins: for he misuses thv favours so much. that he szvears^ thou art to marrv his sister Nell. Repent at idle times as thou mav^st. and so farewell.

Thine. bv yea and no. (which is as much as to sav. as thou usest him.)
Jack Falstaff, *with mv familiars*;
John, *with mv brothers and sisters*;
and sir John *with all Europe.*

s —the answer is as readv as a BORROWER'S cap:] Old copy —a *borrowed* cap. STEEVENS.

But how is a *borrowed* cap so readv ? Read, a *borrower's* cap, and then there is some humour in it: for a man that goes to borrow monev, is of all others the most complaisant: his cap is always at hand. WARBURTON.

Dr. Warburton's emendation is countenanced bv a passage in Timon of Athens:

«c----------be not ceas'd
' With slight denial: nor then silenc'd, when
** Commend me to vour master—and the cap
" *Plays in the right hand*, thus; -."
STEEVENS.

6 P. *Hen.*"] All the editors, except Sir Thomas Hanmer, have left this letter in confusion, making the Prince read part, and Poins part. I have followed his correction. JOHNSON.

7 *I will imitate the honourable* ROMAN *in brevity;*] The old

copy reads *Romans*, which Dr. Warburton very properly cor-
rected, though he is wrong when he appropriates the character to
M. Brutus, who affected great brevity of style.
I suppose by